

1 gambling once it is allowed to enter a state.

2 This Commission has before it an
3 outstanding opportunity to research the moral,
4 political, and financial cost of the gambling industry
5 that it imposes on our nation. You will do a great
6 service to Americans.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Ms. Blackwell.

9 MS. BLACKWELL: Madame Chairman and
10 Commissioners, I'm Helen Blackwell. I'm Chairman of
11 the Voting Integrity Project, a national, nonprofit,
12 nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating and
13 equipping Americans to safeguard the integrity of
14 their elections in their communities.

15 On request from local citizens, we will
16 provide independent investigations of alleged vote
17 fraud. We're the only national organization with this
18 mission, and we have noted certain patterns in
19 election fraud.

20 One such pattern, the apparent link
21 between gambling and vote fraud, is strongly suggested
22 by two of our recent investigations. My written

1 testimony will give further details about how gambling
2 interests in Louisiana and San Francisco may have
3 changed the outcome of two elections.

4 In late November of '96, VIP was asked to
5 investigate the very close challenged '96 Louisiana
6 Senate race. We were the first outside, independent
7 group to look at the allegations. The United States
8 Senate is now investigating them.

9 That election day there were gambling
10 initiatives on the ballot in all 64 parishes, and
11 three initiatives in New Orleans where the bulk of the
12 allegations center. As the returns came in that
13 night, one Senate candidate was leading until nearly
14 midnight. Then 70 precincts from Orleans Parish were
15 reported, giving his opponent enough votes to win.
16 The gambling initiatives won.

17 When observers arrived with the official
18 count three days later, they found all 877 Orleans
19 Parish voting machines unlocked and open, contrary to
20 state law, which requires they be locked and kept
21 locked until the count.

22 New Orleans Mayor Moriale favored and

1 campaigned for the gambling initiatives and for the
2 Senate candidate Landru. An unusual high voter
3 turnout was reported in Orleans Parish, and witnesses
4 and evidence attest to the following. Large sums of
5 money flowing from the companies that would benefit
6 from the gambling referenda were the following: vote
7 buying, multiple voting by individuals, transporting
8 voters with numerous vans and drivers supplied by at
9 least three casinos in violation of state law, city
10 employees coerced to campaign at the polls, illegal
11 corporate expenditures by gambling companies, and
12 election officials being paid by a casino.

13 The second election I call to your
14 attention is the June 3, '97, San Francisco stadium
15 initiative where they were voting on paying -- whether
16 the taxpayer should rezone and back a \$525 million
17 stadium complex and all for the 49ers, a private
18 corporation. The measure was unpopular. The polls
19 showed it would lose. It was opposed by civic
20 organizations, but pushed by the mayor.

21 On election night, final counts for four
22 sections of the city reported unusually high turnout,

1 were held back until midnight, and provided the narrow
2 winning margin.

3 Other parallels with New Orleans were
4 mysteriously disappearing ballot boxes, multiple
5 voting, vote buying, intimidation of voters. The rest
6 of this is in my written testimony.

7 We strongly urge you to look into this
8 subject. I can think of no more serious social
9 consequence than the erosion of our citizens'
10 confidence in the integrity of their elections, which
11 would undermine our very system of representative
12 government.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

14 Mr. Enright.

15 MR. ENRIGHT: Madame Chairman, my name is
16 Michael Enright, and on behalf of Attorney General Joe
17 Curran of Maryland, I wanted to thank you and the
18 other Commissioners for allowing our office the
19 opportunity to address the vexing issue of legalized
20 gambling, and in particular, casino gambling in our
21 state and in the nation.

22 I have with me a copy of Attorney General